



For immediate release
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Missouri's jobless rate holds steady in July
Weakness in manufacturing employment continues to slow economy

JEFFERSON CITY -- Missouri's unemployment rate remained at 4.3 percent in July, as the summer increase in the labor force and continuing weakness in the economy kept unemployment at its highest level since 1998.

About 128,300 Missourians were estimated to have been jobless in July, down by 2,000 from June but up by 18,500 from a year ago.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the unemployment rate eased in July, falling three-tenths of a point to 3.9 percent. The typical seasonal pattern would have been for a further increase in unemployment in July, which did not occur this year. However, seasonal unemployment patterns can vary somewhat from summer to summer. The current seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.9 percent is very similar to the rates in the previous six months, suggesting that underlying unemployment in the state has leveled off at just under 4 percent, with some monthly variation around that figure.

Payroll employment dropped sharply in July, falling by 41,400. Essentially all of this decrease was in the service-producing sector. Employment in the goods-producing industries was essentially unchanged over the month. The decrease in service-producing employment can be attributed primarily to the end of spring terms at schools and colleges. Support staff at these institutions who do not work during the summer are not counted on payrolls even if they will be returning in the next term. Most of the decrease in private educational services and in state government had occurred in June, but the bulk of employment declines in local government, including public schools, occurred in July, as employment dropped by 35,400 jobs.

The largest decrease in the private service-producing sector was in eating and drinking places, which includes some school and college food service operations. Employment in this industry was down by 2,600 jobs over the month to 183,200. Communications employment was down by 1,300 jobs in July, while trucking and warehousing employment dropped by 1,000.

In the goods-producing sector, there was a net decrease of 200 jobs over the month, but there were some larger movements in individual industries. Most manufacturing industries continued to lose jobs, though most of the individual losses were small. However, the motor vehicles and equipment manufacturing industry posted a gain of 2,600 jobs, as a layoff ended. Non-durable goods industries collectively lost 1,800 jobs over the month, spread through most industries. In the durable goods sector, machinery jobs decreased by 700 while fabricated metal products grew by 400.

Over the past year, payroll employment in Missouri has decreased by 24,800 jobs, or 0.9 percent. Job losses continue to be concentrated in manufacturing and in business services. Virtually every reported manufacturing industry has lost jobs over the past year, with the net losses totaling 24,200, or 6 percent. Nearly two-thirds of the net loss has occurred in the durable goods sector. Business services, which includes the help supply agencies that supply temporary workers to manufacturing and other industries, has lost 15,300 jobs over the year.

The remainder of the service-producing sector has continued to grow, with a net increase of 14,200 jobs since July 2000. Within this broad grouping, however, there has been mixed performance. Wholesale trade of durable goods has grown, while the rest of wholesale and retail trade has lost jobs. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate has grown by 2,100 jobs over the year. In services, most industries other than business services have grown, particularly private educational services (6,500), health services (5,500), membership organizations (2,900) and social services (2,500). Personal services and engineering and management services have both lost jobs over the year.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (JULY 2001), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (MAY AND JUNE 2001), AND YEAR AGO (JULY 2000)

	JUL 2001	JUN 2001	MAY 2001	JUL 2000		JUL 2001	JUN 2001	MAY 2001	JUL 2000
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	4.7	4.7	4.1	4.2	Atchison	3.7	3.8	2.6	3.3
MISSOURI	4.3	4.3	3.6	3.7	Audrain	4.1	3.6	2.9	3.2
ST. LOUIS MSA	4.6	4.8	3.8	4.1	Barton	3.0	3.5	3.1	2.8
Franklin	5.5	5.1	3.5	4.6	Bates	5.8	6.0	5.1	4.7
Jefferson	5.0	4.7	3.1	4.1	Benton	7.0	6.9	6.6	6.3
Lincoln	4.4	4.1	3.6	4.0	Caldwell	7.0	5.0	4.6	5.9
St. Charles	3.1	3.0	2.3	2.5	Carroll	5.2	4.9	4.6	3.3
St. Louis County	3.5	3.7	3.0	3.0	Cedar	5.3	4.9	4.5	3.6
Warren	4.2	4.0	3.4	3.0	Chariton	6.8	6.2	4.7	5.0
St. Louis City	7.1	7.8	6.5	7.0	Clark	6.8	6.3	6.1	7.1
KANSAS CITY MSA	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.4	Cooper	4.0	3.6	2.5	2.7
Cass	3.0	3.2	2.7	2.9	Crawford	5.8	6.2	4.8	6.3
Clay	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.4	Dade	3.9	3.7	3.2	4.9
Clinton	3.8	3.5	2.7	3.4	Dallas	6.9	6.9	6.3	7.0
Jackson	4.3	4.4	4.1	3.8	Daviess	4.2	4.6	4.0	2.9
Lafayette	4.2	4.2	3.4	4.3	DeKalb	3.9	4.4	2.5	3.1
Platte	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.0	Dent	8.4	9.1	8.0	6.0
Ray	5.1	4.0	3.2	5.2	Douglas	6.7	7.6	6.9	4.3
SPRINGFIELD MSA	2.8	3.0	2.7	2.5	Dunklin	7.3	6.9	6.1	5.1
Christian	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.6	Gasconade	5.0	4.6	3.5	4.6
Greene	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.4	Gentry	3.2	3.6	3.2	3.3
Webster	3.9	3.8	3.2	3.2	Grundy	3.2	3.4	2.8	3.4
JOPLIN MSA	4.4	4.7	3.8	4.2	Harrison	2.3	2.9	2.4	2.7
Jasper	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.2	Henry	4.9	5.7	5.6	3.4
Newton	5.8	5.7	3.8	6.1	Hickory	7.9	7.8	7.4	9.0
COLUMBIA MSA	1.8	1.9	1.3	1.5	Holt	3.7	4.8	3.3	3.8
Boone	1.8	1.9	1.3	1.5	Howard	4.9	4.2	3.3	3.6
ST. JOSEPH MSA	4.5	5.5	4.1	3.6	Iron	6.5	7.2	6.0	6.9
Andrew	3.8	5.1	3.8	3.4	Johnson	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.4
Buchanan	4.6	5.6	4.2	3.6	Knox	3.5	3.5	4.1	2.7
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	3.5	3.4	2.7	2.3	Laclede	5.9	6.2	5.0	4.3
Adair	3.4	3.2	2.6	2.1	Lewis	3.2	3.6	3.8	2.6
Schuyler	4.0	4.1	3.5	3.7	Linn	11.8	7.6	5.0	7.5
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	9.1	5.7	5.2	5.5	Livingston	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.0
Butler	9.2	5.4	4.8	5.4	McDonald	5.4	5.0	3.9	4.7
Carter	6.9	6.1	5.3	5.4	Macon	8.7	8.7	8.5	6.1
Ripley	9.8	6.5	6.6	5.9	Madison	7.4	6.8	6.8	7.7
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	3.8	4.2	4.0	3.4	Mercer	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1
Camden	3.4	3.8	4.0	3.0	Monroe	7.3	7.0	6.2	5.3
Miller	4.4	4.8	4.0	4.0	Montgomery	5.2	5.5	3.8	4.8
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.2	5.3	4.7	4.3	Morgan	4.9	5.5	5.0	3.5
Bollinger	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.2	Nodaway	2.5	1.9	1.7	2.1
Cape Girardeau	4.0	4.1	3.4	2.9	Ozark	4.0	4.6	4.8	3.5
Mississippi	8.3	8.5	7.9	5.9	Pemiscot	9.2	9.7	7.1	7.3
New Madrid	7.4	7.9	6.2	6.4	Perry	3.5	3.4	2.8	2.6
Scott	5.3	5.4	5.1	5.0	Pettis	5.4	5.8	4.6	4.0
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	3.8	3.9	2.8	3.4	Pike	7.0	4.6	3.7	5.0
Callaway	3.5	3.7	2.8	3.1	Polk	4.5	5.2	4.7	2.9
Cole	3.5	3.5	2.3	3.4	Pulaski	5.3	5.8	5.5	5.5
Moniteau	3.7	4.7	3.6	3.8	Putnam	3.3	2.4	3.5	2.8
Osage	5.9	5.4	4.3	3.8	Randolph	7.4	5.9	4.5	6.9
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	4.3	4.4	3.9	3.7	Reynolds	9.6	9.7	9.0	9.0
Howell	4.2	4.2	3.8	3.6	St. Clair	5.2	5.7	5.6	4.2
Oregon	4.3	4.7	3.8	3.9	Ste. Genevieve	5.1	5.5	4.4	4.2
Shannon	4.4	4.9	4.8	4.0	Saline	4.2	4.3	2.9	3.3
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	4.5	4.7	4.3	3.3	Scotland	4.0	4.2	2.6	2.2
Barry	4.2	4.6	4.2	2.9	Shelby	6.1	6.8	5.1	6.1
Lawrence	4.7	4.8	4.4	3.6	Stoddard	7.2	5.6	5.0	5.2
MARION-RALLS LMA	5.7	5.1	4.8	4.6	Stone	4.4	4.9	5.8	3.5
Marion	5.7	5.0	4.8	4.7	Sullivan	3.4	3.2	3.8	2.5
Ralls	5.7	5.3	4.6	4.4	Taney	3.2	3.6	4.4	2.9
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	4.0	4.0	3.1	3.5	Texas	5.8	6.4	5.6	6.2
Maries	6.1	6.2	3.8	5.2	Vernon	3.7	3.7	2.8	3.3
Phelps	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.1	Wayne	14.7	10.5	9.4	7.9
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	7.5	7.6	6.2	7.6	Worth	5.5	5.6	4.0	6.6
St. Francois	6.9	7.1	5.9	7.1	Wright	7.4	8.2	7.4	6.0
Washington	9.0	8.9	6.7	8.9					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

NOTE: DATA FOR 2000 ARE PROVISIONAL -- NOT YET OFFICIAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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